Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Added text is indicated by underlining, deleted text is indicated by ~~strikethrough~~. Changes are identified by a change bar in the margin.

Listing Of Claims:

Claims 1-22 (canceled)

23. (Previously presented) A storage system comprising:

a first I/O port for connection to a communication network;

at least a second I/O port separate from the first I/O port for connection to the communication network, the first and second I/O ports each receiving write requests;

an array of media for storing information, the array comprising a plurality of disk storage units organized into a plurality of logical disks;

a plurality of data paths, each data path being selectively connectable between any one of the logical disks and any one of the I/O ports; and

an allocator to allocate one of the data paths between one of the logical disks and one of the I/O ports based upon a data rate capability of said one data path to thereby provide a desired quality of service.

24. (Currently amended) A storage system as in claim 23 wherein the array of media includes media having different operational characteristics, and wherein the storage system allocates individual ones of the array of media to individual ones of the data paths to provide the desired quality of service.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) A storage system as in claim 24 wherein the array of media comprise hard disk drives, and the different operational characteristics comprise different speeds of operation.

27. (Previously presented) A storage system as in claim 24 wherein the storage system allocates ones of the array of media based upon a data rate capability of the media and a data rate capability of a communication link coupled to one of the data paths.

28. (Currently amended) A storage system as in claim 24 wherein the desired quality of service comprises a specified bandwidth and wherein the storage system allocates individual ones of the array of media based upon a guaranteed bandwidth.

29. (Currently amended) A storage system comprising:

an array of storage media;

at least a first I/O port and a second I/O port separate from the first I/O port, each having a network connection operable to connect the array to a network with a desired quality of service;

a plurality of data paths to selectively couple the I/O ports to the storage media, wherein a data path between one or more of the array of storage media and the network connection is selected to provide sufficient data speed to accommodate the desired quality of service.

30. (Previously presented) A method for allocating resources in a storage system, the storage system comprising a first of I/O port and a second I/O port separate from the first I/O port and an array of storage devices coupled to a network connection by data paths, the method comprising:

establishing a data path between a storage device of the array and one of the I/O ports, wherein said one of the I/O ports is coupled to the network connection; the data path being

selected to provide a sufficient data speed based upon data capacity of the storage device and data rate capability of the network connection; and

selecting a storage device of the array based upon the data capacity and the data rate capability of the network connection.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of establishing the data path comprises assigning a data path having a sufficient data speed to accommodate the desired quality of service.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of establishing a data path comprises searching for unallocated data communications resources to accommodate a data capacity of the array.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of selecting ones of the array comprises searching for unallocated ones of the array having a sufficient data capacity to match a data rate capability of the network connection.